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Chapter 17: Septic Tanks

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CHAPTER 17: SEPTIC SYSTEMS

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17-101 Definitions

Reference appropriate definitions - Georgia Code Georgia Division of Public Health Rules and Regulations: On-site Sewage Management Systems Web site: <http://www.ph.dhr.state.ga.us/publications/sewage/ii/shtml>

17-102 Inspection & Maintenance

The owners of all property within the City of Berkeley Lake which property utilizes a septic system or other approved, on-site sewage management system shall have the tank and field lines inspected and serviced every five years in accordance with the service schedule in 17-103 by a septic tank contractor and service personnel who is certified by the state of Georgia and registered with the Gwinnett County Health Department. Upon completing the inspection and service of the system (tank and field lines) per the accepted standards and practices for maintenance accompanying the "Notice

for services due" letter mailed to the homeowner 90 days prior to the service period and available at City Hall, the contractor shall attest on a form to be provided by the City and mailed to the homeowner that the septic system or an approved, on-site sewage management system are in proper working order.

17-103 Service Requirements

Said original and completed form shall be submitted to the City of Berkeley Lake no later than the date prescribed in the associated table of every fifth year, i.e., 2001, 2006, 2011, and so on, commencing with the year 2001. This completed form, to be submitted 10 days following service, shall be applicable to the appropriate "fifth" calendar year and must be approved by the City Manager or City Clerk. If a system was serviced within 24 months prior to or 60 days after enactment of this ordinance and verification of such service is submitted, further proof of inspection or routine maintenance may not be required until subsequent due date of 2006, providing all other provisions of this ordinance are satisfied.

Table 17-103 Service Requirement Schedule			
	MONTH/YEAR SERVICE TO BE PERFORMED		
Address	2006	2011	2016
Even Numbered Lakeshore Drive Addresses	March-May	March-May	March-May
Odd Numbered Lakeshore Drive Addresses	June-August	June-August	June-August
South Berkeley Lake Road, North Berkeley Lake Road, Little Ridge Road Ridge Road, Bayway Circle, Bush Road, Hilltop Lane, Lakeview Lane, Valley View Lane	Sept - Nov	Sept - Nov	Sept - Nov

The Ordinance Enforcement Officer (OEO) shall have the authority to waive the inspection and cleaning of the septic system if he/she determines that inspection and cleaning are not necessary because of limited use or because of a recent cleaning and inspection of the system.

17-104 Record Maintenance

The City Clerk shall maintain the completed forms, transmittal letters, violations and any related septic system information with the City records.

17-105 Malfunctioning Systems

An on-site sewage disposal system shall be deemed to be a malfunctioning system if sewage is allowed to discharge or flow from it on said property into any storm drain, stream, water body, gutter, street, roadway or public place, or if sewage discharges from said system to the surface or subsurface of any property so as to create a nuisance or a condition detrimental to health. Substantial backflow from the leaching area (field lines) into the tank during a tank pump-out shall also be considered an indication of a malfunctioning system as determined by a registered and certified service person employed by a septic system service company registered with Gwinnett County

In addition, any and all parts of a septic system that are found to be damaged, misaligned or missing, (such as but not limited to a cracked lid, missing "T" or misaligned outflow line) shall constitute a malfunctioning system.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this ordinance, all property owners with septic systems or other approved, on-site waste management systems shall be responsible for correcting the malfunctioning of such systems within 90 days from receipt of written notification, which notice shall communicate the specifics of the malfunction.

17-106 Violations

Failure to have the inspection and servicing performed or the failure to submit the completed form according to the service schedule in 17-103 of the year required shall be a violation of this ordinance. Violations of this ordinance may be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment for 60 days or both, in addition to the required compliance to this ordinance within 90 days from the date of notification of violation. Failure to submit the completed form by the end of the 90th day shall be construed to be a separate violation of this ordinance.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of any such conflict.